



# Department of Pesticide Regulation



Mary-Ann Warmerdam  
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

September 10, 2008

PML-08-05

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: NEW FIELD FUMIGATION LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

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**New subcategory**

Beginning January 1, 2009, when licensed pest control businesses do field fumigations, the work must be supervised by a qualified applicator license holder (QAL) that has a special field fumigation license called subcategory O.

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**Background**

Under the U.S. Clean Air Act, each state must take action to ensure ambient air meets federal standards and California has committed to reducing smog-producing emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from all sources, including pesticides. This prompted DPR to put regulations into place in January 2008 to reduce emissions from field fumigants, the largest single source of pesticide VOCs. To help assure competency in fumigant applications the regulations include a new field fumigation licensing exam.

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**New licensing requirement**

The new field fumigation licensing requirements include the following:

- When licensed pest control businesses do field fumigations, a QAL holder with the new field fumigation subcategory O must supervise the business operations.
  - A person who performs or supervises field fumigation applications for a licensed pest control business must hold a QAL/QAC in the field fumigation subcategory.
  - When private applicators do field fumigations, they will not be required to hold the special license/certificate.
  - All other DPR license types (i.e., pilots, advisers, dealer designated agents, dealers, brokers and maintenance gardener pest control business) may not conduct field fumigations.
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**How to qualify  
for subcategory  
O**

Applicators may qualify for subcategory O in one of two ways:

- Through December 31, 2008, by meeting the experience criteria described below for grandfathering into the subcategory, or
- Beginning January 1, 2009, by taking the new field fumigation licensing exam.

Grandfathering criteria:

1. Anyone who already has a QAL/QAC in plant agriculture (category D), regulatory pest control (category G), or demonstration and research (category J) and who has at least two years recent experience conducting field fumigation (described in (2) below) will be able to qualify for the license subcategory without exams or fees.
2. The applicator must have at least 24 months of field fumigation experience during the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2008. Experience must be documented by the applicant on the enclosed form, *Qualified Applicator's Qualifications and Employment Certification Statement* (available on the DPR licensing Web site at <<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/dpr-130.pdf>>).

Testing criteria:

To obtain a QAL/QAC in the field fumigation subcategory after December 31, 2008, applicators must pass the *Laws and Regulations Exam* and *Field Fumigation Pest Control Subcategory Exam*. If an applicator already has a QAL/QAC they would only need to pass the Field Fumigation Pest Control Subcategory Exam. The subcategory exam will be the same for both QAL and QAC. Study materials for this exam will be available in December, 2008.

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**Renewing  
subcategory O  
license/  
certificate**

The renewal requirement for subcategory O will be the same as for other qualified applicators (i.e., a minimum of 20 hours of approved continuing education relating to pest management and pesticides, including not less than four hours pertaining to pesticide laws and regulations).

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**Notification to  
Pest Control  
Businesses**

DPR staff have discussed the new subcategory O with some businesses involved in field fumigation and we have posted an announcement on the DPR website but we are probably not aware of all commercial pest control businesses doing field fumigation. We would appreciate your help in relaying the new requirement to businesses and applicators involved in field fumigation. A field fumigation fact sheet is enclosed.

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**Contact  
Information**

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mac Takeda, at (916) 445-3838 or [mtakeda@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:mtakeda@cdpr.ca.gov).

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Sincerely,

David Duncan, Chief  
Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Pest Management and Licensing Branch  
(916) 445-3870

Enclosures

[Qualified Applicator Certification Statement Field Fumigation Sub-categories "O"](#) (PDF, 21 kb)  
[Field Fumigation Licensing Requirements](#) (PDF, 115, kb)

cc: Ms.Nan Gorder, Chief, Enforcement Branch, (w/Enclosures)  
Mr. Jim Shattuck, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison, (w/Enclosures)